



PATENT
Atty. Docket No. NED-003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: De Groot *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 1785
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/534,777 GROUP NO.: 1626
FILING DATE: December 20, 2005 EXAMINER: Joseph R. Kosack
TITLE: PRODRUGS BUILT AS MULTIPLE SELF-ELIMINATION-
RELEASE SPACERS

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the final Office action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 3, 2009 ("Office Action"), Applicants submit this Amendment and Response, along with a Request for Continued Examination, a Petition for an Extension of Two Months, and the associated fees as applied to a small entity. A Statement Regarding Small Entity Status is enclosed to establish small entity status for the above-identified patent application. Also enclosed is a Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the accompanying Form 1449 and copies of the cited non-U.S. patent documents and non-patent publications.

Applicants believe no additional extension or fee is required for this paper. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension fees or other necessary fees for entry of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Please amend without prejudice the above-identified patent application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 32 of this paper.